

~~23-
Claim 34, lines 1 and 2, please cancel "any of claims 23 to 33" and insert --claim~~

~~Claim 35, lines 3 and 4, please cancel "according to any of claims 1 to 7,".~~

~~23-
Claim 36, lines 1 and 2, please cancel "any of claims 23 to 35" and insert --claim~~

~~Claim 37, line 2, please cancel "according to any of claims 1 to 5".~~

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims in order to reduce the initial filing fee by deleting the multiple dependent claims from the application. Applicants retain the right to reintroduce any subject matter canceled by the present Amendment at any time during the prosecution of this application or any further application claiming benefit of this application.

Applicants have amended the application to substitute the originally filed pages 18-24 with the amended pages 18-24 attached to the International Preliminary Examiner Report (Annexes) and included in the application as filed herewith. Also, an Abstract of the Disclosure has been added to the application.

Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the Search Report which issued on International Application No. PCT/EP98/06047, of which the present application is the U.S. national phase. All of the publications cited in the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is Applicants' understanding that, under the procedures of the PCT, copies of the cited publications will have been supplied to the U.S. Patent Office by the International Bureau. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if additional copies are necessary or would facilitate examination of the present application.

Otherwise, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed and dated copy of the attached Form PTO-1449 to confirm that all publications listed thereon have been considered and made officially of record in the file of this application.

Applicants understand that, under the procedures of the PCT, a copy of the priority document (9720371.5, filed 24 September 1997) will have been supplied to the

U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP98/06047

U.S. Patent Office pursuant to Rule 17 of the PCT Regulations. It is therefore respectfully requested that the first Official Action in the present application contain an indication that the appropriate priority document is in the file of this application.

In view of the above amendments, an early action on the application is now in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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REF:kdd
PCTPRELI.AMD.wpd

DATE: March 24, 2000